

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE AS SANITIZED

COUNTRY	Guatemala
SUBJECT	Guatemalan Recognition of Latin American Dictatorships and Soviet Satellites
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PLACE ACQUIRED	Guatemala, Guatemala City (7 December 1953)

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REFERENCES

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1. On 1 December 1953 Carlos Manuel PELLECCER, Guatemalan Communist, stated that the Guatemalan Government is studying the desirability of recognizing the governments of Venezuela, Peru, and the Dominican Republic and that it is very probable that such recognition will be granted. He added that the FRANCO Government of Spain will not be recognized, since Guatemala maintains relations with the Republican Government of Spain in exile. PELLECCER stated that there would be an indirect advantage in recognizing these dictatorships because thereafter it would be possible to renew relations with Czechoslovakia and Poland, naming diplomatic representatives to those countries without being accused of favoring Communist satellites unduly.
 2. On 1 December 1953 Robert BLASCO Alava, Spanish Communist residing in Guatemala, also mentioned the possibility of Guatemalan recognition of Latin American dictatorships but added that such recognition would be compensated for by renewal of diplomatic relations with the "people's democracies." Here he mentioned Poland and Czechoslovakia and stated that Luis CARDOZA y Aragon, Guatemalan Communist intellectual and poet who formerly held diplomatic posts in the U.S.S.R., Chile, and France, would be named Ambassador to Prague. BLASCO was asked if Latin American dictatorships were being recognized so that relations might be renewed with the people's democracies or if Victor Manuel GUTIERREZ and Jose Manuel FORTUNY had brought back such instructions from the U.S.S.R. BLASCO refused to give any further information in reply.
1. Field Comment. GUTIERREZ, secretary-general of the Communist-dominated Confederacion General de Trabajadores de Guatemala, and FORTUNY, secretary-general of the Partido Guatemalteco del Trabajo (PGT-Communist), are Guatemalan Communist leaders who were recently in Moscow. GUTIERREZ returned to Guatemala on 29 November 1953.

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